

April 8, 2021

House Finance Committee  
State House  
Providence, RI

**In Support of H5672 An Act Relating To Human Services - Child Care is Essential Act**

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

NASW-RI Chapter strongly supports H5672, An Act Relating to Human Services, as it will ensure high-quality and enriching childcare to all RI families. The bill's passage is also important as it will provide access to this care to those who need it most: low-income, working families. S378 will have long-term beneficial individual and societal effects because early education enhances a child's lifelong academic and social successes.

Since childcare is an essential service in the United States and in Rhode Island, we must be sure all of our children receive exceptional quality care regardless of their economic circumstances. As social workers, we work with families who participate in the RI Works and Child Care Assistance Programs. We witness how securing placements in highly-rated child care facilities is especially challenging for families living in poverty. The estimated monthly cost of childcare in RI is \$1,141, which is a huge lift for many families who toggle between paying for rent, food, and other necessities. Without access to quality child care, families cannot meet their basic needs and they cannot reach financial independence.

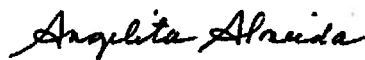
Lastly, downstream, quality child care increases a child's social and emotional competence and ability to succeed in school. As a result, passage of this bill will have positive and long-reaching impacts for communities throughout our state.

NASW-RI urges you to support this bill to provide all of our children the quality child care they need and deserve.

Sincerely,



Rebekah Gewirtz  
Interim Executive Director  
[rgewirtz.naswma@socialworkers.org](mailto:rgewirtz.naswma@socialworkers.org)



Angie Almeida  
Deputy Director  
[assoc.naswri@socialworkers.org](mailto:assoc.naswri@socialworkers.org)